

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1435
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Nathan L. Essex for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators and administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Nathan L. Essex is one such estimable administrator who has proven himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity, and has performed his duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Essex currently serves as the President of Southwest Tennessee Community College, where he has earned the respect of his colleagues, students, and fellow citizens for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a model student in his youth, Dr. Essex distinguished himself academically while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Science from Alabama A&M University and a master's degree in Educational Administration from Jacksonville State University; and

WHEREAS, after completing his master's degree, Nathan Essex worked diligently as a teacher and administrator at Gadsden City Schools and a Corporate Manager for Chalmers Corporation; and

WHEREAS, as he advanced in his career, Nathan Essex never failed to remember the immense value of education or neglected to include its pursuit in his personal experience; he graduated from the University of Alabama with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Administration; and

WHEREAS, since completion of his doctoral degree, Dr. Essex has served as Associate Director of the Bureau of Educational Service and Research, Program Chair of the Administration and Planning Program, and Area Head of Educational Leadership at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his estimable service with the University of Alabama, Dr. Essex served as a Policy Consultant for the Alabama State Department of Education, providing consultation for over 100 school districts and post-secondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, moving to Tennessee, Nathan Essex served as Dean of the College of Education at the University of Memphis, in which position he guided the college through massive reform, the development of new curriculum, restructuring the college, and the development of stronger links with school districts and community agencies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Essex was selected by the Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents to formulate and implement a merger plan for Shelby State Community College and State Technical Institute at Memphis; and

WHEREAS, an erudite and prolific researcher and writer, Dr. Essex has published articles in over 70 journals; published a national educational law newsletter; co-authored a textbook, *The Beginning Teachers*; and authored three textbooks, *Public School Law*, *A Teacher's Pocket Guide to School Law*, and *What Teachers Should Know About No Child Left Behind*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, he received the University of Alabama Teaching Excellence Award in 1986, the University of Alabama Loree Research Award for the College of Education's Most Outstanding Dissertation in 1986, the Capstone College of Education Society Academic Excellence Award in 1987, the Bailey Tabernacle CME Church Super Dad of the Year in 1987, the Alabama A&M University Achievement Award in 1989, the NAACP Award in 1989, the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators Truman Pierce Award and Educational Leadership Award in 1990, the Youth Services of Memphis President's Award in 1991, President Bush's Community Service Award in 1991, the Tennessee Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Leadership and Service Award in 1993-1994, the Positive Attitudes in Tennessee Schools Leadership Award by the Tennessee State Department

of Education in 1997, the Outstanding Leadership and Service Award by the Committee on Women's Issues by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 1997, the University of Memphis National Youth Sports Program Inspirational Achievement Award in 1998, the University of Memphis Phi Delta Kappa Chapter Educator on the Move Award, and the Women in Higher Education in Tennessee Leadership Award in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Essex was named the Community Leader of America in 1991, the Kappa Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Educator of the Year in 1993, the University of Memphis Distinguished Administrator of the Year in 1996, the Alpha Beta Gamma College President of the Year in 2004, and the University of Memphis Society Educator of the Year in 2004; he was also recognized by Personalities of the South in 1991, 51,000 Personalities of the World in 1991, *Who's Who in Tennessee* in 1991, and *Marquis Who's Who* in 1993; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Nathan Essex is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Lorene, and their marriage has been blessed with three wonderful children, Kimberly, Jarvis, and Nathalie; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Essex epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to family that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Essex has evinced a deep commitment to professional and educational excellence, and this legislative body wishes to specially recognize his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. Nathan L. Essex for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, commend his dedication to academic and professional excellence, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.